

REUTER

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#48682-INTTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, Feb 21, REUTER - THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, CITING THE NEED SOMETIMES FOR SHIFT AND SECRET ACTION, TODAY URGED CONGRESS NOT TO SHACKLE U.S. INTELLIGENCE NETWORKS WITH RESTRICTIONS THAT COULD UNDERMINE AMERICAN SECURITY.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER SAID THE ADMINISTRATION FELT U.S. SECRETS COULD NOT BE SAFEGUARDED UNDER A PROPOSED CHARTER DRAFTED IN CONGRESS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF PAST EXCESSES THAT HAD CAST A CLOUD OVER THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

A SENATE BILL WOULD REQUIRE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO GIVE THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANY UNDERCOVER ACTIVITIES. ~~NOT~~

BUT THE ADMINISTRATION FELT THAT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY, IMPROPER AND UNWISE, ADMIRAL TURNER SAID. INSTEAD, HE PROPOSED, COVERT ACTIVITIES TO THE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE REPORTED "IN A TIMELY FASHION."

"PRIOR REPORTING WOULD REDUCE THE PRESIDENT'S FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL WITH SITUATIONS INVOLVING GRAVE DANGER TO PERSONAL SAFETY, OR WHICH DICTATE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPEED AND SECRECY," HE SAID.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL ON COVERT INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WAS ONE OF EIGHT OUTLINED BY ADMIRAL TURNER IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE.

THE LIST SURPRISED MANY SENATORS AND PROMPTED ONE, NEW YORK DEMOCRAT DANIEL MOYNIHAN, TO ASK: "APART FROM THOSE EIGHT PROVISIONS, IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT IN THE BILL?"

AMONG OTHERS, THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS AUTHORITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE ANY PROVISION IN THE PROPOSED CHARTER IN TIME OF WAR.

ADMIRAL TURNER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO WORRIED THAT THE ABILITY OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO RECRUIT FOREIGN SOURCES AND DEAL WITH FRIENDLY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE IMPAIRED BECAUSE IT COULD NOT PROTECT ITS SOURCES AND METHODS.

THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, WHICH COMPRISES SEVERAL CIVIL AND MILITARY AGENCIES BESIDES THE CIA, ALSO WANTS FREEDOM TO PAY JOURNALISTS, CLERGYMEN AND ACADEMICS FOR INFORMATION OR USE THEM AS COVER FOR ITS SECRET ACTIVITIES.

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